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## **BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION**RECEIVED

Arizona Corporation Commission

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RICHARD GAYER,

v.

Complainant,

SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION.

Respondent.

(Dwight D. Nodes, Hearing Officer)

**DOCKET NO. G-01551A-13-0327** 

Complainant's THIRD MOTION TO COMPEL COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER NO. 74780

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Complainant Gayer hereby moves the Arizona Corporation Commission, for the Third0 time, for an Order compelling Southwest Gas Corporation (SWGas) to comply with *all* parts of the Order in Decision No. 74780, especially the requirement for the Monthly Weather Adjustment (unlawfully renamed by SWGas as the "EEP Weather Adjustment" [EEPWA"]) to appear on customers' bills for all months to which the EEPWA applies and without any exception based on the dollar amount thereof. Therefore, SWGas must reprogram its computers so that a line item entry for the EEPWA always appears in bills that cover the six "winter" months of November through April. (Complainant is filing this Motion to make a clear record of the continuing intentional misconduct of SWGas in the hope that SWGas may correct its errors on its own initiative, even though this Motion may be premature.)

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**FACTS** 

On 8 April 2015, Complainant received a bill dated 04/06/15 from SWGas. Unlike all previous bills, that bill did not have the required line item for what SWGas is calling the "EEP

Complainant's THIRD MOTION TO COMPEL COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER - 1

Weather Adjustment". Upon inquiry of SWGas via 1-877-860-6020 on that day, Complainant was unable to speak with anyone from SWGas because of "heavy call volume"; that is, SWGas absolutely refused to speak with him on that day.

Complainant called again on the next day (9 April) and was told, falsely, by Lee Anne that the "EEP Annual Adjustment" that did appear his bill included the weather adjustment. She also said that the EEP Weather Adjustment applies to all months from 1 November through 30 April. Complaint then told Lee Anne that he is the Complainant in Docket No. 13-0327 and that he knows that the annual adjustment does not include the weather adjustment, after which she said she would forward his request to a supervisor and that he would hear from SWGas later that day.

Later that day (9 April 2015), Complainant received an e-mail from Christy Berger of SWGas, in which she wrote that: "I also understand that you inquired with our call center as to the absence of an "EEP Monthly Weather Adjustment" on your most recent bill. Since this billing period resulted in zero HDDs, the calculation of the EEP Monthly Weather Adjustment resulted in zero. When a billing item results in zero value, the billing system does not print that line item, which is why you only saw the EEP Annual Adjustment reflected."

Clearly, SWGas must reprogram its computers to avoid the foregoing violation of the Order in Decision No. 78780. If SWGas is for some reason averse to printing zeroes, then it can print "NONE", as it now does under "Please Pay Amount Due" when that amount is zero. (See attached redacted copy – for privacy – of a bill to a SWGas customer in Phoenix, 85003.)

Complainant promptly replied to Ms. Berger and others as follows:

"Thank you for your instant response to my inquiries (email and 'phone). However, I view the absence of the "EEP Weather Adjustment" (hereinafter WxAdj) on my recent bill as a clear violation of the Decision and Order No. 78780 of the AzCC and will be filing a motion in Case No. 13-0327 to compel SWGas to show a "0.00" when the WxAdj is zero. (If necessary, I may then file a "Special Action" in the Superior Court for Maricopa County.)

Bills from SWGas show a Charge (positive number) for the WxAdj or a Credit (negative number) for the WxAdj as a function of the sign (+ or -) of the Variance. If for some reason the WxAdj is zero, then "0.00" must appear on the line item for the "EEP Weather Adjustment". SWGas' unlawful deletion of that line item reduces that item to nothing at all and suggests to customers like me that the WxAdj has been terminated for all time. As my high school Calculus teacher often said when a student said the answer to a

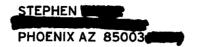
problem was nothing: 'Nothing is what's in your head; the correct answer is zero'. The 1 same rule applies here. If I don't hear from SWGas by 5:00 pm Phoenix time this coming Friday 10 April, I 2 will prepare my Motion to Compel over the weekend for filing with Docket Control next Monday or Tuesday (14 April). 3 Since Complainant did not hear from SWGas as requested, he prepared this Motion for filing. 4 5 SWGas' increasing intransigence in playing fast and loose with a direct ORDER from the 6 Commission is shocking. The Order in Decision No. 78780 does not allow deviations from its 7 clear language, even if SWGas may consider its numerous deviations lawful. Complainant is 8 not relying upon the "spirit" of the Order but only upon its text, but SWGas is violating both its 9 10 letter and spirit by confusing its customers with unlawful deviations from it. 11 12 CONCLUSION 13 Complainant's Motion should be granted. It is axiomatic that a utility must obey an 14 Order of the Commission, especially one to which it has stipulated. 15 SWGas should be specifically ordered to comply with all provisions of the Order in 16 Decision No. 74780. The "EEP Weather Adjustment", which should be the "EEP Monthly 17 Weather Adjustment" [emp. added], should not disappear from bills when its dollar value 18 happens to be zero. If necessary, SWGas must reprogram its computers accordingly. That should require less than one hour's time from even a junior programmer. 19 20 Dated: / April 2015 21 Respectfully submitted by, 22 23 CHARD GAYER, Complainant 526 West Wilshire Drive 24 Phoenix, AZ 85003 602-229-8954 25 rgayer@cox.net 26 27 28

Customer Assistance Asistencia al Cliente Toll Free/Llamada Gratis 1-877-860-6020

PO Box 98890 Las Vegas NV 89193-8890 Hearing Impaired: Dial 711 www.swgas.com

PAST DUE AFTER PLEASE PAY AMOUNT DUE

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CYCLE

## **DUPLICATE**

Service Address:

85003

Rate Schedule: 010/G-5

ACCOUNT NUMBER

010/G-5 RESIDENTIAL GAS SERVICE

DATE MAILED

Your Local Office Is 2200 N CENTRAL, STE 101, PHOENIX AZ 85004

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